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| 5 | PEBBLE PROJECT | |
| 6 | SCOPING MEETING | |
| 7 | NAKNEK, ALASKA | |
| 8 | Taken April 9, 2018 Commencing at 3:30 p.m. | |
| 9 | Volume I - Pages 1 - 67, inclusive | |
| 10 | volume 1 - Pages 1 - 07, Inclusive | |
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| 12 | Taken at Naknek School | |
| | Naknek, Alaska | |
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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Good evening, everybody. Hey, thank you, guys. First of all, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank you on behalf of the United States Army for participating in the scoping process for the Pebble Limited Partnership proposed mine and construction and port facility. As there are many individuals who would like to provide input into the scope of our document, we ask that you please be respectful of others as they participate. Your input will be used to inform a range of alternatives, the resource issues to be analyzed, methods used for analysis, and potential mitigative measures throughout the evaluation of the Department of the Army permit application.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers is neither a proponent nor an opponent to the project. We are required to review the permit application and will serve as the lead federal agency for the environmental impact statement level of analysis. In addition to the Corps, there are two others federal agencies that will need to evaluate the proposed impacts and make subsequent decisions. These agencies are the United States Coast Guard and the Department of Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. The three federal agencies will use the same environmental impact statement to inform

our federal decisions.

We're here tonight because the first step in writing the environmental impact statement is to determine what we should analyze in the document. This is the process called scoping. The potential impacts associated with the applicant's proposed discharge of dredge and fill material, for the construction of the mine, associated infrastructure and closure activities are described in the Department of the Army permit application and are of primary importance to the scope of our document. The framework of our document must have a nexus to the proposed impacts under our jurisdiction or the other two federal agencies.

We have posters and a video to describe the proposed project in the rear of the room, and I'd encourage you to take a look at those and watch the video. The video will also be posted on the project's website, pebbleprojecteis.com.

You can provide your input into what we should analyze in several ways. There are computers in which you can directly input your comments, including a mapping feature which will help identify the physical location of the resource or issue that you are trying to identify. You may speak directly to the court reporter, or you may use the mic and provide public testimony, but only one of

1 those at a time because we only have one court reporter.

2 And if you are presenting to the court reporter, please

speak clearly and slowly. And if you have written

4 documents prepared ahead of time, please provide them to

5 her, as well. Or you may go online at another time and go

6 directly to the project website and enter your comments

7 into the public website, as I described earlier.

Please understand that all comments and information that you disclose are public -- will be publicly available in as real time as possible on that website, as well. All comments will be limited to three minutes. And if you choose to listen to others who are speaking their comments to the court reporter, please limit the background noise for the ease of the reporter to precisely record the individuals that are speaking.

That is my conclusion. So at this time we will proceed according to whom came in first and wrote down their name to provide comment.

Katie, who is the first person? Oh, let me also say this. So also in attendance tonight is Kate McCafferty, project manager with the Corps of Engineers, three individuals from AECOM, who is the third-party contractor tasked to help us develop the EIS level of analysis, and a representative from the State of Alaska. Katie and myself are available to discuss our process. Kyle is available

to talk about the State and their process. And any of the individuals I identified, including our Yup'ik speaker in the back, are available to take any written comments, as well.

Again, I'd like to thank you on behalf of the United States Army for coming tonight and participating in the public process. My name is Shane McCoy, by the way. I'm the program director. Thank you.

Maureen Knutsen.

MS. MAUREEN KNUTSEN: I just want to -first of all, I want to say that the loss of salmon
bearing streams is, like, a really negative impact that I
worry about because every little stream that has salmon in
it is important to the total run that we have, so that
needs all -- any streams or water that are going to be
negatively impacted need to be assessed for whether there
is salmon in them or not.

And I worry about the noise and the dust from the construction and the mining operations affecting, like, the moose and caribou because my husband and I -- my husband is a lifelong resident here, and I have been here since 1975, and we pretty much depend on mainly salmon for our subsistence and our income as commercial fishermen and also what we -- that's what we eat all winter, you know, salmon, moose and caribou.

The other thing that I worry about is our local economy. You know, the -- our borough is founded on a raw fish tax and property tax. Those are the things that provide, like, the money to -- for our community to function. And I feel like any negative impacts on the salmon and the price of salmon is going to negatively affect our local government and our local communities.

And the other thing -- and I wanted to say that, like, when the EPA was taking comments however many years ago that was, they did a lot of science and studies and stuff, and I hope that you guys can incorporate a lot of that information because it's -- it's still pertinent to, you know, the impacts of this project even with the different things added in, like the pipeline and the smaller mine footprint.

And the other thing I want to comment on is that I'm afraid that, like, this is going to be like opening a can of worms because I don't see how they can profitably, you know, mine this deposit knowing that it is a huge, huge deposit that's, like, a lot of low grade ore. So they are not going to be able to be profitable with just the little mine pit that they are talking about. They are going to have to, like, expand it at some point. And so to me it's like -- it's just not the right place to have a mine. They could have that mine, like, maybe in 50 or 100 years

if there is no salmon here anymore or something like that,
but the salmon is a real resource, and that is, like, of
way higher value than this foreign company's profits.

So that's what I have to say.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Is Henry Fischer here?

MR. HENRY FREDERICK FISCHER, JR.: My name is Henry Frederick Fisher, Jr. I was born December 25, 1944 in Kvichak Cannery. My father delivered me. You could see me out there chasing my brothers and sisters. At the age of 12, Yeager Edgerton was a friend of my father's, and I also know Yeager. He took me fishing, paid me a \$100 to steer the boat at the age of 12. At the age of 15, I began to skipper. I have been fishing ever since. This summer it will be 61 years for me without missing a season. There's not many people in this auditorium that can say that. Mr. Hanson? No?

I have been feeding the world for 61 years coming this summer. The world, not just Bristol Bay. Our canned salmon went all over this world in the days when they used to can fish. And I worked at the Slope. I was one of the first Natives on the Slope on oil rigs. I know what reserve pits are. I know that chemicals are deposited there.

Now, Pebble Mine, the first mine they said will last 50 years. Well, I have been feeding the world more than

50 years. Not only that small, 20 -- 20 years, they said. 1 What is 20 years? Five years ago I had four generations 2 of fishers on my boat: Me as the second generation, my 3 twin boys, that is third, and my grandson as the fourth on 4 5 my boat fishing here in Bristol Bay. And I don't know when I'm going to retire. I guess when I can't climb 6 7 ladders no more to get on and off of the dock or get into the boat. But I know what chemical waste is. I did 11 8 9 years up on the Slope on that. And if something ever happens with Pebble Mine is going to do here -- an 10 earthquake. Well, they don't have earthquakes here. Hey, 11 you know, they don't know what's going to happen 1,000 12 years from now. And that chemical stuff will still be 13 there in the ground. 14

Now, if it shakes loose of anything like that there, there's a drainage over to the left, to the west, the Nushagak River. And our drainage here is the Kvichak River, but coming out of Iliamna Lake. There is more fish in this whole globe that's -- you know, that spawn.

Iliamna Lake was one of the biggest ones, and the Nushagak district with their lakes. But to me, this mine should never be -- it shouldn't even spud in, really, you know. Thank you.

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MR. SHANE MCCOY: William Regan.

MR. WILLIAM REGAN: Thank you for the

opportunity to speak. My name is William Regan. I
retired about two years ago. I have a family. I rose
them up here. We love this place. My opinion on this
mine is no. I see it as a temporary job sink. It's a
finite thing. It's something that's already caused a
division. You can see it amongst families, amongst
friends. We just don't need it.

It's not one of those things that keeps going on.

Our red salmon fishery is going on and on. It supplies as many jobs -- maybe not the profitable ones; some of them are good, some of them are bad. That's the way it goes.

But it has put work out for a long time.

The only thing this mine is going to leave is a scar. When it's all said and done, we are going to have a bomb up there that's going to kill off one side or the other, maybe both. We just can't -- it shouldn't happen.

It doesn't just affect us locals here. It affects everybody. It affects this whole bay. It affects this whole state; probably the whole country and the whole world. It's salmon. It's just too much to risk.

One of my dear old friends -- he's gone now, but you know, he always said too much of no good, plenty all right. And it's an old Native saying. It's just, like, how much do you need, dude?

So thank you.

1 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Dorothy Larson.

MS. DOROTHY LARSON: Good afternoon. My name is Dorothy M. Larson. I'm from Dillingham and Anchorage. I'm a Bristol Bay Native Corporation board member, as well as a shareholder of Choggiung Limited and a tribal member of the Curyung tribe. Thank you for this opportunity to provide my comments.

I will focus today primarily on the necessity for the protection and sustainability of the critical subsistence lifestyle for the resources provided for the health and well-being of the people who depend also on the resource of the commercial salmon fishery. Our family has collected subsistence resources from the land and waters of the Nushagak, Wood, Mulchatna rivers, as well as Togiak and Ekuk and the lakes near Dillingham. I also partake of the resources near Anchorage, Fairbanks and the Kenai areas.

As an example, my family consists of six children, their families, which number nearly 30 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren, and many extended family members with whom we share our subsistence resources which we harvest and collect from the waters and the lands. We use thousands of pounds of subsistence resources. The Bristol Bay Native Association and the subsistence division of the State of Alaska have studied the subsistence use and

consumption of said users. As for my family, I believe we use much more than those studies estimate. I encourage the Army Corps to use their reports and data in developing the draft EIS.

My large family consumes hundreds and hundreds of pounds of salmon, other fishes, shellfish and most species of berries, birds, porcupine and wild game and wild greens, all rich in nutrients. Some of these greens and teas are harvested for traditional medicinal purposes. We barter and trade within regional boundaries, as well as beyond our boundaries. I trade with family and friends from Bethel, Kotzebue, Barrow and southeast areas in the state. The Army Corps should consider all subsistence users inside and outside the Bristol Bay area in the draft EIS and the cascading impact the mine will have on all subsistence users throughout the state.

Our family not only are subsistence users and fishers. We participate in the commercial fishery and, like many other Alaskans who obtain their fish by the rod and reel, we sports fish. We preserve our food not only by the traditional methods; we have learned to make varieties much like what you can buy off the grocery store shelves.

If we didn't have our subsistence resources to supplement the food supply, we would be very unhealthy and

malnourished. I was a commercial set net fisher on Ekuk
Beach for over 50 years, inheriting my fishing set net
site from my mother who fished until she was in her 80s.
My sons and their sons and daughters have fished since
they were about eight or nine years old, and still
continue to do so today. They fished in the rivers in
Naknek, Kvichak, Egegik, the Nushagak, Wood, and Togiak
areas.

When the Exxon Valdez spill occurred, it impacted drastically the price of our rich salmon fishery in the bay, though our fish weren't tainted by the spill. To this day, the price of the late '80s has not recovered.

The Corps should consider the impacts of any U.S. oil spill should a shipping accident occur both at the port side and Cook Inlet and the Iliamna Lake and the impacts this would have on all fisheries: subsistence, sports and commercial.

If there ever was a mining tragedy or failure of the tailings containment which would contaminate large areas of critical habitat, harming salmon spawning areas as well as the water, plants, and animal feeding areas, this would kill the salmon fishery in Bristol Bay. It would create the most devastating economic disaster, impacting many other businesses such as the tourist, transportation and service industries. These would have a snowball effect on

almost everyone in the region, as well as in the state.

The Army Corps should analyze potential for impacts from
the tailings failure for 10,000 years into the future.

Many of the families depend wholly on commercial and subsistence fisheries. Many have gotten a western education and training. I relied on higher education to help to add to the family income. One of the most satisfying tasks I had for many winters was working for the Alaska Legislature. I worked for the -- on the Interim Committee on Subsistence. After the interim work was completed -- and we did much of the same as the Corps is doing right now. We conducted hearings from east to west and north to south across the state of Alaska. With the input that was gathered from the residents across the state, the result was the subsistence data was promulgated in statute. I encourage you to use this data in developing the draft EIS.

Pebble's impact to subsistence and commercial fishing activities cannot be mitigated away. The impacts will negatively impact communities and people for generations. I recommend the Army Corps adopt the no action alternative in the draft EIS.

Please be diligent in analyzing the data. Do not leave any stones unturned to ensure that the Pebble Project is thoroughly vetted and that every issue is

examined.

My last comment and recommendation would be that you allow those communities of Dillingham, Homer and Anchorage to provide oral testimony with the extension time now allowed. Hearings in the Washington, Oregon and California area might also be a suggestion to hear the testimony of those out of region who commercial fish in Bristol Bay.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide my comments on behalf of myself and family.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Paul Hansen.

MR. PAUL HANSEN, SR.: My name is Paul Hansen, Sr., a Bristol Bay resident. I hold a Bristol Bay salmon fishing permit, and I am a subsistence resource salmon user, hunter and commercial fisher. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today.

Clean waters for salmon spawning in natal waters is a wetland that requires returning five species of salmon to be free of chemicals, dredge material, tailings and heavy metals that can affect water quality above and below groundwater aquifers. The proposed area is in the middle of two major spawning areas for salmon. Number one, the Upper Talarik Creek and the Lower Talarik Creek which drain into Iliamna Lake and then into the Kvichak River. That's one major spawning area. Two, the Koktuli and into

the Mulchatna and then onto the Nushagak River. That's two major spawning areas that most of our salmon migrate from year after year.

The road and proposed deepwater port in Cook Inlet where the power and other requirements for this mine's needs could be affected -- could affect the low population of migratory belugas of Cook Inlet and their diet which they feed on for them.

In closing, salmon in Bristol Bay has supported the local Native culture for centuries without harm to the resource.

Thank you for protecting Bristol Bay's clean water and clean air resources.

Respectfully, thank you. Paul.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: I'm going to submit comments on the extended period of time. I'm going to do comments on the extended -- that you extended till June 1 or something?

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Yeah. I guess two things. Up here we have depicted as our scoping period comment period ending April 30th. We -- as of last Friday, we extended it another 60 days. So the comment period is open until 29 June. And then as I'm watching the growing number, there is still -- just a reminder.

I'm not -- obviously you have your -- there are the

computers still available if anybody would like to enter directly into that, as well.

But you are not Sharon Thompson?

4 MS. MARILYN HANSEN: No. I'm Marilyn

5 Hansen.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Did you sign up?

MS. MARILYN HANSEN: I signed it, but I'm not going to do a public comment like this. I'm going to opt out and do a written and submit it within the time frame.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Okay. Thank you.

MS. SHARON THOMPSON: I'm Sharon Thompson, and I'm going to submit mine online, too, so we can move this along.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Abe Williams.

MR. ABE WILLIAMS: I'm not commenting.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Richard Russell.

MR. RICHARD RUSSELL: My name is Richard Russell. I'm a 49-year resident of the area. I'm a former State of Alaska Fish and Game biologist, both with the sportfish division and later with the commercial fish division. My primary emphasis during my sportfish days was in the Iliamna, Lake Clark and Mulchatna River areas. Prior to that I worked as a seasonal for the University of

Washington's Fisheries Research Institute, during which

time I ran 22-foot skiffs across Iliamna Lake at night doing transects to catch juvenile sockeye salmon so we could make the FRI salmon forecast.

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I have six things that I'd like to say at this point in time. The first one -- at least with regard to The first one is that any waters used for scoping. mineral production activities by the Pebble Project must be chemically suitable under U.S. drinking water standards for use as drinking water by humans before being returned to the surface or subsurface waters of the Kvichak/Nushagak drainages. The reason for that is that organisms that spend their entire lives in water are very sensitive to chemical constituents migrating across their permeable membranes. And our fish and wildlife depend extensively on some of the tiniest and most vulnerable of these organisms: copepods, Cladocera, rotifers such as Basminas cyclops, Daphnia, and others of those.

Number two, any and all structures on, above, along or over waters in the Kvichak/Nushagak or Lower Cook Inlet drainage must be fish and wildlife friendly to the utmost degree. That includes bridges, culverts, docks, piers, fuel storage tanks, moorings, et cetera.

Iliamna Lake is very rough water to navigate at times. It has many reefs and rocks. Some of these are very poorly identified. We found some of them at the

University of Washington by hitting them with our props,
and we definitely tried not to hit them in the future.

Anyway, it's a very tough area to navigate. The winds on
it can come up within 10 to 15 minutes and make it go from
flat calm to six-foot waves. We don't need any ships
sinking in the lake. We don't want to hear of any Edmund
Fitzgerald in the middle of the lake.

The Bruin Bay/Kokhanok corridor is an extremely windy, turbulent area. Augustine Island Volcano is very active. It's erupted three times in my tenure here:
1976, '86, 2005 and '6; early in 2006. There are frequent hurricane force winds that have passed through that notch. We take the Iliamna wind speed and generally used to add 30 miles an hour to it when we were going out to try and work on the lake. Many times we couldn't.

Any construction along that corridor will require maximum construction and maintenance efforts as mitigation for the unfriendly territory environmentally. East winds during the May to June break-up period on Iliamna Lake propagating from the Kokhanok/Bruin Bay area tend to pile up humongously large piles of ice on the north shore of Iliamna Lake, sometimes 40 to 60 feet high. Sounds like thunder when it's happening. Any docks, piers, vessels that happen to be moored in the vicinity of the mouth of the upper Talarik Creek at that time would be in peril.

Recent experiences with gas line leaks in Cook Inlet have shown that repairs can be delayed significantly by drifting ice, big tides, murky waters, as they found out in the oil platform a year ago. Add that to possible Augustine eruptions with pyroclastic flows and ash deposition and earth tremors doesn't make the Amakdedori site for a beach landing look very advantageous. It's somewhat like the Drift River site for the oil storage tanks. It gets flooded when Mt. Redoubt begins to act up.

This is the last great sockeye salmon fishing producing area in the world. Screw it up, and there are no more. The world population is getting larger, not smaller, and that means more mouths to feed. So please do your utmost to protect it.

And the last comment I have is that whatever you decide with regard to Pebble permits, it's going to affect the entire Bristol Bay region. We have all expressed, about 80 percent of us, our opposition to this, so we will be watching the government's response to see if they accept the will of the people or do something else.

Thank you.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Peter Andrews. Peter

23 Andrews?

MR. PETER ANDREW: Can I defer for a

25 | little while?

1 MR. SHANE MCCOY: It will be to the end.

MR. PETER ANDREW: Fine.

living.

3 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Ted Shangin.

MR. TED SHANGIN: My name is Ted Shangin.

I'm against the Corps because if they go forward with this project, it will affect my subsistence way of living, will kill off the fisheries, will herd off game that is already lowly populated, and this project will bring a lot of outsiders, which will bring unwanted drugs to the community, which I don't want for my kids to be growing up around. I want them to learn the traditional ways of

So if this project is built, all my cultural ways of living will be lost, and my kids and their kids will never see it again.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Joe Chythlook.

MR. JOE CHYTHLOOK: Good afternoon. For a correction, my name is Joe Chythlook. I'm with BBNC, been chairman for several years, been on the board for a number of years. But our shareholder base, Bristol Bay Corporation shareholder base, along with many other residents in Bristol Bay are all communities that will be affected by whatever happens if Pebble Mine is developed.

The Nushagak and Kvichak River drainages are downriver from the proposed mine site. So you are talking

about affecting people from all the different villages, i.e., Igiugig, Levelock, Naknek, King Salmon, Koliganek, New Stuyahok, Ekwok, Dillingham, Aleknagik, Clark's Point. The risk from the contamination, either from normal operations or an accidental event, is something that we cannot take as a risk. This not only threatens the economic livelihoods of everyone in these communities, but threatens the subsistence lifestyle and health, as well.

Gentleman got up there earlier and said that he had been fishing for many years. Many of our families in Bristol Bay have been doing that. Personally, I have been fishing for over 60 years. I'm older than I look. But anyway, commercial fishing industry is the economic backbone of the entire region.

The success of the industry depends on Bristol Bay's reputation of pristine salmon habitat. The mere existence of Pebble undercuts the reputation, damages the commercial land, and will hurt the economics of the industry. The EIS needs to consider the damage to that commercial fishing industry that building Pebble will cause.

There is no demonstrated need for the Pebble resources. There are alternate resources in the world for gold and copper. Any claim by Pebble that the mine will promote U.S. mineral independence is false. Pebble intends to ship all the materials to market somewhere

else, including Asia.

The EIS should consider the unique environments in which Pebble is proposed. The mine site and the large drainages downriver of the mine site are entirely wetlands and entirely hydrologically connected. There is no barrier between the surface and the groundwaters in between different water bodies. The EIS must consider that the water quality up in the region is pristine and perfectly suited for the spawning, rearing and life cycles of salmon, a uniquely sensitive species.

And then when I was thinking about that, downriver as well are some of the marine mammals that depend on salmon. And anything that brings harm to salmon will also affect many different marine mammals that our people depend on within those bays, Kvichak and Nushagak.

The Pebble Limited Partnership has not produced any studies or data regarding existing resources, environment on the south side of Lake Iliamna. I see that they are purporting to move the ore that way. These studies should be proceeded -- precede the EIS process. The Corps should not be considering the permit until PLP does the necessary groundwork.

The Pebble Limited Partnership has failed to do any studies to demonstrate the economic feasibility of the mine itself. It is unproductive for the Corps to be

considering an application for a project that is economically unproven.

And finally, the federal permitting process should be coordinated with the Alaska State agencies that also have permitting authority over the project components.

However, the Pebble Limited Partnership has failed to apply for any State permits. The Corps should delay its review until PLP has engaged the necessary State agencies by applying for the required State permits.

I guess on a side note, I'm a retired Fish and Game employee. I have listened to many debates on how our resource should be shared by everybody within Bristol Bay. And all of these people that depend on the resource have learned to rely on the Board of Fish and Board of Game process to ensure that we have continued resources that everybody depends on for years. And as a longstanding Alaska Native resident, I will not -- I will fight, I guess, until I get older and maybe pass on to ensure that nothing destroys the country in which we live.

So thank you for the opportunity to say a few words today.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Sheila Ring.

MS. SHEILA RING: I was told to sign in,

24 so I signed in.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Would you like to

testify?

MS. SHEILA RING: No.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Daniel O'Hara. As, I

guess, a favor to myself, would you reiterate your name

and the correct pronunciation.

MR. DANIEL O'HARA: My name is Daniel J.
O'Hara. And nice to see everybody here. I am the mayor
of the Bristol Bay Borough, but I'm not speaking for the
borough today, and I'm not speaking for the staff, and I'm
not speaking for the borough assembly.

But I grew up on -- I was born on Lower Iliamna
River. There was about 400 Dena'ina living there at the
time, and my grandpa was the mayor, and he had a reindeer
herd. And we lived in Pile Bay, and we killed a moose
every month to eat. That's a long time ago, so they can't
get me on that now. But that's okay.

I went to high school in Seattle. Started a little late. Graduated at 20. I went to college. Got married. After college I went up to Boeing Fuel, got my license for maintenance, worked for American Airlines for three years. In 1969 my wife and I moved back to Naknek and raised our family here.

Now the -- when I -- I suppose this is the beginning of the permitting process for the Pebble project. Is that right?

MR. SHANE MCCOY: That's correct.

MR. DANIEL O'HARA: So this is a good time to speak up on this. There has been a lot of good testimony this afternoon on what -- the Koktuli draining into the Mulchatna over into the Nushagak bigger river system and spawning areas. Off in the Lower Talarik and Lake Iliamna massifs, we have had three years of really big, big fishing. Next year -- this year is going to be good, and maybe one year after that. So we have just a phenomenonal type of situation in Bristol Bay.

I guess what I'd like to speak to is I just heard this -- and it may be true. If not, I'm going to speak into this microphone as testimony -- that there is a possibility of moving the product from Upper Talarik across Lake Iliamna through Kokhanok and over to the Cook Inlet side. And I -- and they are going to use an icebreaker in the winter to move the product.

As far as I'm concerned, nothing goes in Lake
Iliamna. That just absolutely ran chills up my back when
I heard that. I just cannot fathom having that happen.
We just heard a retired biologist tell us his experience
in Lake Iliamna, and I've heard people give reports about
what is in Lake Iliamna, which is -- which very few of us
ever hear what is in that lake. We don't know all the
species that are in that lake. And I'm sure there is

people who have given us reports that there are so many
species of fish down there -- of course, the five species
of salmon come up. Of course, the big one is the sockeye.
And I just can't imagine breaking ice across Lake Iliamna
and having that kind of a chance. It just really

confirmed to me that this is not a good position.

I would just like to mention that I heard this quote, and I wish I would have thought of it myself, but a friend told me one day, he said, my stand is that as far as Koktuli, Mulchatna, Nushagak, Upper Talarik, Lower Talarik and Lake Iliamna, the Pebble Project is not compatible with that -- with those drainages.

So thank you very much.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Everett Thompson.

MR. EVERETT THOMPSON: My name is Everett Thompson. I live here in Naknek. I'm a fifth generation commercial fisher, which I rely on for my income, and also rely on subsistence activities for my family and I. This year will be my 35th consecutive season fishing in Bristol Bay, and my 14-year-old nephew will be fishing and learning from me again this season, which will make it his third season. We are tribal members here in Naknek, and I personally am a shareholder of four other regional Native corporations.

I have some serious concerns about the Pebble Project

and the permits they are required to get. I am concerned about the earthen dam holding back the tailings, as they have been known to fail, the 50- to 80-mill liner proposed to use in the tailings ponds being only ten times or less than the vapor barriers being used in my home right now. This is eight-mill paper vapor barrier stacked together. That's too thin for me. I don't see how you could stop acid mine drainage if something happened with that tailings pond around the area.

The amount of water used at the mine, I would like to know how much it will drop the water table and see a 3-D picture of it. If they are not going to damage or drop into the Talarik, I would like to see Pebble remove their water permit from that area. So they withdraw that, where they are trying to get that water from. If they are not going to use that now or down the line, then withdraw it, that application.

This pit will fill up with water after operations cease, and I don't want to see any of our waterfowl dying in the pit like they have in Butte, Montana.

The icebreaker transporting ore across the lake all the time is disrupting the environment of seals, fish and trout within communities across the lake by people; the roads, the culverts affecting fish and compaction of the road possibly disrupting aguifers and water flow; the marketability of our world class salmon, trout and other species; the noisy blasts from the mine disrupting the animals in the area; the dust from the mine and roads; family Native allotments, which we have near Kokhanok and Igiugig; natural gas lines going under Cook Inlet over the land and under Lake Iliamna, and emissions from the power plant, and it may affect the air quality, as well. All problems.

The only reason we inhabit this portion of the earth is because of our abundant renewable resources that have been providing for people of the region for 6- to 12,000 years. This mine and other mines that will come once the infrastructure is here will forever change and threaten the area and all living things.

Most people will talk to you -- most people you talk to around here aren't against mining, but are against mining and putting at risk our lush area and renewable resources. We have had friends, family, elders pass away in the last 14 years fighting for the longevity of our region because they knew keeping the health of the ecosystem was greater than themselves.

In closing, I'd like to thank you for coming to our area. Thank you for extending the comment period from 60 to 90 days. And please consider extending it to a full six months or more. Our area warrants such scrutiny.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Dylan Mancuso.

MR. DYLAN MANCUSO: I'm going to take

4 advantage of that extended period. Thank you.

effects on our region and beyond.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Mellisa.

MS. MELLISA MANCUSO: I will, too.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Lindsay Layland.

MS. LINDSAY LAYLAND: My name is Lindsay Layland. I'm a resident of Dillingham, Alaska. I was raised in Bristol Bay. And I'm a commercial fisherman and a subsistence hunter, as well. I've long opposed the Pebble Mine because the development of this mine, the supporting infrastructure and the accompanying transportation corridor and natural gas pipeline raise very serious concerns about the potential impacts and

I'd like to start by emphasizing that regardless of the scope that Army Corps determines to be appropriate for this project and regardless of who and where and what you determine to be impacted by this development, this mine will always be the wrong mine in the wrong place. I'm vehemently opposed to Pebble because it poses a substantial threat to how I live and to the traditional way of life that has sustained the people of Bristol Bay for thousands of years.

In this comment period, however, you are asking us to speak to concerns that we have regarding the potential scope of this project.

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So to name a few, it's absolutely critical that the Army Corps of Engineers studies the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the following: Shifts in and impacts to cultural subsistence and traditional practices such as fishing, ice fishing, trapping, hunting, berry picking at, near, surrounding and downriver of the mine site on the Alaska Peninsula and in the Cook Inlet and Kenai Peninsula regions; human health impacts that are directly and indirectly related to fish and wildlife consumption for residents and communities near, surrounding and downriver of the mine, as well as human health impacts of salmon consumers within and beyond the state of Alaska and the United States; impacts to ground surface and subsurface organisms, including tundra, berries, lichen, grasses, wetlands, algae, and all aquatic species and waterfowl species that may be affected as a result of dust pollution from the construction and operation of the transportation corridor.

As Joe mentioned earlier, I'm also confused and concerned by potential impacts from the economics of this mine. Without an economic feasibility study presented by the Pebble Limited Partnership in their application to the

Army Corps, I don't know how a proper assessment of that can be done.

The Army Corps of Engineers also needs to examine the impacts that development of the Pebble Mine would have on future mining endeavors within the Bristol Bay fisheries reserve. If the Pebble Mine were to be developed, how might it increase or decrease the likelihood of other mines being built at other mineral claims in the surrounding area? How would the development of those projects affect the natural environment of the Bristol Bay region, human health, cultural and subsistence practices, regional and statewide economies, tourism and commercial fishing industries, regional population levels, and the global market of mineral value? None of this is outlined in the Pebble Limited Partnership's application and deserves extensive research and review.

While there have been significant research and scientific reviews surrounding this mine proposal on impacts to water and salmon, I urge you to expand the scope of this project to include every individual, every community, and every user group from Nondalton to Koliganek, from Aleknagik to Togiak, from Falls Pass to Voznezenka, and those around the state and the country because -- and those around the state and the country who have any cultural, economic, spiritual, societal, familial

or other ties to Bristol Bay. Bristol Bay is no place for the Pebble Mine.

And as Everett stated, a 90-day comment period is not nearly significant for this region, as people here are continuously participating in subsistence activities throughout the year. For a proper opportunity, we need at least six months for a project of this size and magnitude in this region. Thank you.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Russell Phelps.

MR. RUSSELL PHELPS: Hi. My name is
Russell Phelps. I'm a lifelong resident of Naknek,
Alaska. And I'm also a commercial fisherman. Originally
my family has been set net fishermen, but I just recently
purchased a drift boat permit. I subsistence fish and I
subsistence hunt.

And I'd like to -- I realize this is a scoping -this is for the Corps of Engineers on scoping of the
project. And what I'd like the Corps of Engineers to look
at is Bristol Bay is the world's largest sockeye fishery.
I'd like them to figure out if there is a way to farm
sockeye salmon because, as far as I know, there is no way
to farm sockeye salmon. And so if you are going to have
the mine come in, you could potentially harm the sockeye,
which will never return to these rivers like the Kvichak
and the Nushagak.

The other thing I read about, and I -- and I've heard on the news is that a lot of larger gold and copper mines in the world don't want to see this mine coming in because this mine is going to flood the market so their prices would come down. So I'd like the Corps of Engineers to look into that, as well.

I'd like you to look into all the marine mammals that are affected in the region, and not only in the Bristol Bay region, but in the Cook Inlet region, and all the other fish that are in our streams, such as smelt, herring, lake trout, grayling, and rainbow trout.

I'd also like to mirror what Joe Chythlook said. I'd like to see the economic study that the Pebble Mine would present to the State.

That being said, I hope that I can pass this fishery that I have been fishing my whole life and getting paid since I was nine years old to my family and my family can pass it on to the next generation. Thank you.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: George Wilson, Jr.

MR. GEORGE WILSON, JR.: Hello. My name is George Wilson, Jr. I'm a lifelong resident of Bristol Bay. And on my dad's side, he came up here -- my grandfather came up here in the early 1900s, and on my mom's side, we have occupied this region since the beginning of mankind. And with that, I take that

responsibility very seriously because that's -- I'm entrusted in this environment from my grandparents or my ancestors. And I have three daughters of which I feel responsible for helping to protect this region. I'm a commercial fisherman. I'm a subsistence user. It's very near and dear to my heart, this -- I grew up in Iliamna Lake, in Igiugig, and with that this is a very real. I can't express that enough.

I understand the mining industry. Not only am I a commercial fisherman, but I'm a welder and fabricator, and I need raw metals to do my job. But I believe that this mine is in the wrong place for the wrong reasons, and it could impact this fishery like all the other large fisheries that used to exist before Bristol Bay. We are just the last one. We weren't the only one. This is the last large fishery in the world.

And thank you.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Russell Nelson.

MR. RUSSELL NELSON: Hello. My name is
Russell Nelson, and I'm from Dillingham. I grew up here.
I was born over in Kanakanak, just right beside
Dillingham. And my family is all from there. I grew up
fishing commercially and subsistence fishing. I was -- I
started flying in 1974, spent six years on the Alaska
State Board of Fisheries. And that's a seven-member

board. I don't know if you guys are familiar with it, but
they make all the fishing regulations for the State of
Alaska: methods, means, time and area. So I have a
little bit of experience with fisheries, especially in
Bristol Bay. You have to be appointed by the governor and
confirmed by the House and Senate, so it's a rigorous
process. I spent two terms on there.

And my large family and most of the residents in Bristol Bay and everybody that I know really depend on the fishery. And all the game animals, too, that run around. And those things really require a clean environment. And that's what makes Bristol Bay so great. We don't have roads all over the place and power lines and people tromping through the streams and running up and down all of them all the time. It's a pretty remote area. That's what makes Bristol Bay so good for having all the fish that we have.

I subsistence fish. I fish for king salmon is the main species that I go after in the springtime, and then I go back for sockeye later, and so do most of the people that I know around -- the Nushagak River is a really good producer of king salmon, and it's probably one of the last great producers of king salmon where we are not having trouble with runs. We know the Yukon is coming back a little bit, but the Kenai is in trouble. And it's all

because of this pristine environment.

And my understanding is that 25 percent of the king salmon that go up the Nushagak River spawn in the north fork of the Koktuli. That's the headwaters up there where Pebble wants to put a tailings pond, and they want to take some water out of it, also, which will deplete some of those -- one of the most important feeder streams for king salmon along the Nushagak River that we all depend on and hope the fish to come back every year.

Looking at -- seeing that there -- the bad metals and the pyrite that's real high in sulfites, and they are going to store it up there on top of it, so they would have to store that for, I don't know -- I guess you can't just store it for 100 years or 1,000 years or 10,000 years. You've got to store it forever or it's eventually going to come down and ruin the habitat.

I think the Pebble Partnership needs to do like all the other mining companies and show us a plan before they get permits from the Corps of Engineers. You know, they should be -- have to put up enough money for remediation for the worst case scenario. I think the Corps should also evaluate PLP's permit application over a 10,000-year time period because that's how -- its own consultants said it would require monitoring in its 2012 baseline study. If their consultants are telling them it's 10,000 years a

study, you guys should be doing the same thing, studying them for 10,000 years. I think we should study them for 10,000 years, then see if it's right.

I'd like you to please consider all the impacts, including the construction, operation and closure phases. They should have to prove that they are -- a small mine is economically feasible on its own and not come back for an expansion of the mining plan in order to make it profitable.

Please don't fast track this project and leave the citizens of the United States of America to pay for another Superfund site. Fast tracking the permit process for a foreign mining company to the detriment of U.S. citizens should be criminal. The United States Corps of Engineers is not meeting its own NEPA obligations.

So please, study them for a long time. Make sure that they do all of this stuff, that they are not the first big, giant mine in Alaska that can come in here and get all the permits without even doing their own research and telling us what they are actually going to do.

Thank you.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: John Christensen.

MR. JOHN CHRISTENSEN: Hello. My name is John Christensen. I am the president of the Native Village of Port Heiden. I have some things for the Army

Corps to consider. Will the deepwater port get refilled after the project? And where is the dredge material going to be stored? If so, will there be any impact doing that, storing all the material? If not, who will maintain the port if it's not refilled back in?

Can you consider the impact on the migrating birds that fly over the area, and the road and mine noises, what that will do to them? The migrating birds' food supply, the berries, bugs, blackfish, plankton will also be affected. And will there be a study on that? Also, will there be seasons of no blasting for the mining so the birds can fly and not be scared away?

Also, what kind of crime would be created by the increased population from the mine workers and support personnel? Example of drug use, of opioids, human trafficking, theft and vandalism. Health care would also be affected. Our hospital is already long waits. And is there going to be their own hospital, or will there be a bigger burden on what we have? Also the jails, too, if the -- if there is more crime. Need to do a study on that. And will my taxes be paying for a new hospital and jails, or is the mine going to be doing that? Have you studied this?

The road going in, when will that be removed if the -- after the project, and is there a timeline for

that? Will there be a study on leaving the road in and
what kind of harm would it cause to the migrating animals
in the area? Also, is there a plan for the icebreaker
barge if something should happen, if it sinks while loaded
with ore, like an unbalanced load sinking or punctures due
to ice?

And that's all I've got.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Jodie Hagenbay?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Hazenberg?

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Hazenberg? Yeah, that

could be it. Nope? Okay.

Cody Lauson.

MR. CODY LARSON: Thanks. My name is Cody Larson. Seems like every time I write my name, someone calls me Lauson, so I've got to work on my Rs.

So I live in Dillingham. I've lived there for 12 years. But I'm testifying today because I'm going to be traveling a bit, and I don't know if I'll have another chance. But in the last 12 years that I've lived in Dillingham, I have been learning about the Bristol Bay way of life, and that's -- that's been what has kept me here. And I'd like to call it my home, but I can't call it my home because it's not my land. It's not where I'm from. A lot of people in the room can say that this is your home.

And so the things that I'm speaking to are things that I'm speaking to from my perspective. But the way of life that I have been learning is what's kept me here. I know that the Army Corps of Engineers is looking at the scope of information and for information gaps and things that should be addressed here in this environmental impact statement. And so I wrote down a few things that I want to know and what I think will need to be studied for this 20-year project.

The first thing, I grew up doing construction, so any good construction project has a timeline. And 20 years isn't that long of a timeline to be pretty specific at when things are going to happen and who is going to be doing them and what's going to happen for missed deadlines. Typically if you have a contractor or something with a missed deadline, there is consequences and there is assurances in place, bonds in place to make sure that those deadlines aren't missed. But this isn't a project. It's not a plan. It's a hypothetical scenario of something that could have -- could take place with minimal impact.

So with this hypothetical scenario that's been outlined in the past few months here, some of the questions I would have liked to have had answered in that scenario is what year -- do we have to expect another

application for a larger mine, larger mine plan or extension of the mine plan? And that's even if the company changes their name or has a sister company come in. It's still the same area. It's the same body of ore. And so with changes to companies, it doesn't necessarily alleviate the previous company's assurances or bonds that they would have to have through default, bankruptcy, all of the tactics that we have seen around the world.

Another couple of adjustments I'd like to see that were in this hypothetical scenario were some of the phrases like until such time that monitoring won't be needed. And so that's, again, not a timeline. It's very vague and open, nothing that you would see in any construction project. I'll be finishing at such time in the future that I think I can finish. So if we have a timeline of 20 years, let's see some deadlines.

The other thing I didn't like to see in there is, like, third-party maintenance. Very vague. Like, who is going to be doing this? When are they going to be finished with what they are doing? So anything third party is not taking ownership and saying, we are going to develop this responsibly. It's saying, we will figure it out as we go. That's not a good model for any construction project.

As far as logistics or other things that should be

considered outside of all of the other ecological impacts are some of the water models that have been put together for even the EPA's assessment to be able to do an There were only two-dimensional water table assessment. models. And so with -- the water system is -- as just far reaching as it is in the area, we need to see 3-D models of the water systems. And those are what need to be used in determining what can go where and when seasonally -very seasonal. So some of the seasonal things that weren't addressed in the hypothetical scenario were seasons of, you know, ice or seasons -- or times of day that smolt are at the top of the water column in Lake Iliamna or at the bottom of the water column in Lake Should they be running ferries all day, all night, just in the mornings, just in the evenings? of this is outlined in there, but it's pretty basic stuff.

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You know, for minimal impact we have just got to be looking at what creatures are moving around and how are we going to move around them without creating an impact to them, things that should all be outlined in here.

Getting back to the Bristol Bay way of life and those assessments, that's, I think, maybe -- maybe in my mind the most important thing that we should be looking at is, is there going to be an assessment of what our region will look like with a shift in our values because of an

industry that's a foreign concept to the people that call this home that are from here. Can we assess what will it be like when our values shift from our land and our waters and those things providing for us continually into the future and the knowledge that we get from the lands and waters that's been passed to us by our parents and generations before us? What will that look like and can we have a model of that? What will it look like when our values shift away from what we have valued here so far? I'd like to see what that looks like.

But it certainly should be determined when we are depending on a cash economy over a subsistence economy or something that is -- the focus is more of what can I take from you, here is what you can take from me, versus what can I give to everyone. And that's been the value shift that I've seen -- or the value that I've seen in Bristol Bay, and that's the way of life that I've come to appreciate here.

So thanks for your time, and I hope to see a very thorough analysis of things that I've mentioned.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Meganna Schlais.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Schlais [pronunciation].

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Sorry. I apologize.

Meganna? Pete Carracas. And if you could say your name.

MR. PETE CARUSO: Caruso. I wasn't going to say anything, but listening to everybody, I felt maybe I should say something. Pete Caruso, coming up on 40 years here in the Naknek area. Set netter, drift fisherman, tender. Listened to a lot of people talk about the economic impact on the Bristol Bay fisheries. I kind of looked at it a little different. A lot of people in this room know that I'm a pretty avid trapper and hunt, like a lot of them. And I was thinking that in Anchorage and in the Lower 48, you guys have activities: Golf, bowling, baseball, football, whatever, go out on the weekends and do your thing. More power to you. Great.

Here, we have a different type of activity:

Smelting, hunting, various types of hunting, trapping, and that's what keeps us going as we get older. And of course, I hit the 60 mark and I'm still going. If there is a negative impact with the Pebble Mine to the natural resources in the area here, what happens to me and people like me? Our activities go away, and there I'm going to probably sit on the deck of my house which overlooks the Naknek River, which I really enjoy this time of year of watching the swans come in, the geese, the Belugas, the seals. I'll be sitting on the deck of my house watching an empty river go by, and life is going to pass me up.

And instead of maybe, with any luck, living to the age of

90 or 95 in decent health, maybe I'll kick the bucket at 70, 75 because there's no activities.

So just keep that in mind for the people in Washington who have a lot of availability to them, and we have very few availabilities to us.

Thank you.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Carolann Hester.

Carolann? Beth Hill? Anna Hoover.

MS. ANNA HOOVER: My name is Anna Hoover.

I am a lifelong summer resident of Bristol Bay and a
five-year full-time resident. I have a family here. And
more than half of my annual income comes from commercial
fishing.

I am not an overly emotional person, but the subject of protecting Bristol Bay from the threat of the Pebble Mine is one that is so dear to my heart that it more often than not brings me to tears.

This is my third time testifying on behalf of our region. In addition to dedicating my master's degree to researching and writing on the subject, the first time I testified was in 2012 alongside friends and community members that are no longer with us to contribute to the conversation.

It is my opinion that the fact this is still a conversation rather than a refuge protecting our salmon is

heartbreaking; heartbreaking because this feels like the closest we have come to losing this ten-plus-year fight to protect what we love most. We love being a part of a balanced ecosystem that sustains 20,000 jobs and provides direct protein from the wild to human mouths. This economic balance took thousands of years to achieve and would take that amount of time again if it were knocked out of rhythm.

We feed our families from the productive waters that surround us. It is our responsibility -- it is our responsibility to take care of these waters that allow us the tradition of pulling trophy-sized salmon out of them, a tradition that has been extinguished in so many other parts of the world. We residents of Bristol Bay are proud to be the home of the last wild commercial sockeye fishery in the world.

I think it is important for you to study the commercial fisheries that exist and used to exist in England, Ireland, Iceland, Scotland, California, Oregon and now Washington state, not only the economic and environmental impacts, but the human health and social impacts of the people who participate in those fisheries.

We are caregivers of this land, this ecosystem. We are here to ensure our offspring share in the joy of the great wild harvest.

Speaking of offspring, it is also important to measure the cumulative impact from the construction, operation and mitigation of the mine, not only for my children's generation, but my children's children and for generations to come. No single one of us deserves the right to erase a way of life, neither of a species of salmon nor of a people.

Our way of life, who we are, depends on the health and safety of our land. I wish we had the millions of dollars to hire the marketing team to tell you more eloquently that this beautiful part of the world that we call Bristol Bay has no room for any form of this mine or any like it. What if there is an earthquake similar in magnitude to the 1964 devastating quake that rocked Alaska? We do not want to be the next Los Frailes Mine in Spain or, even closer to home, Mount Polley in British Columbia where the local people are left with a polluted ecosystem surrounding them and a Superfund site with no one being held responsible.

And my last closing thought is, what do the next 10,000 years look like for our returning salmon?

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Eddie Clark.

MR. EDDIE CLARK: I want to thank you guys for being here and listening to us. Lifelong resident.

Born and raised here. Fished over 60 years here,

- 1 commercial, subsistence, sports. I do about everything.
- 2 Really enjoy it here. And like Pete says, the older we
- 3 get, the more we move, the longer we are going to last.
- 4 And that's kind of what we do here. We just keep plugging
- 5 away. And my whole life savings is in my commercial
- 6 fishing outfit. I'll never retire. My father didn't.
- 7 And so that's just the way we are.
- But the economics of fishing, commercial fishing in
- 9 Bristol Bay -- even the Bristol Bay Borough here, 83
- 10 percent of the revenue the borough gets is directly from
- 11 commercial fishing or indirectly from commercial fishing.
- 12 You know, City of Igiugig, the fish tax, they wouldn't be
- 13 nothing without it. The Lake and Pen Borough, the school
- 14 district, they have 17 schools open because of the fish
- 15 tax. I mean, this whole area would just really be a ghost
- 16 town, I guess. I don't know. And that's too bad.
- 17 You know, I'm looking at their new travel plan, and I
- 18 spent many years in Igiugig in the fall, and it probably
- 19 blows 100 miles an hour at Lake Iliamna three to five
- 20 times a year. 100 miles an hour. They want to cross it
- 21 all the time. That ice gets thick up there. Boy, I don't
- 22 know.
- I've asked other people maybe alternate plans and
- 24 stuff. And there are some alternate plans if something
- 25 like that has to happen, but Iliamna Lake is pretty

precious. It's just the biggest run of sockeye comes out of there, and just messing that up is terrible. Wrong place, wrong time, you know.

You look at the map from Kokhanok to Amakdedori on the other side, they are so close to McNeil River, it's unbelievable. I mean the bears and the tourists, but mainly the bears there, just getting there close is unreal.

But anyway, I want to thank you. And we have got a good number of people showed up. Wrong place, wrong time. Thanks.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Joshua Gumlickpuk.

MR. JOSHUA GUMLICKPUK: So hi. My name is Joshua Gumlickpuk. I am a resident of the Dillingham area. I am currently here doing my student teaching in the building. I have been here since January, and I really grew to love this place. I look forward to coming back to here. But I am currently in my senior year at college.

And I just want to talk more about, like, I really don't have any income as a college student here. So really one reason why I want to be a teacher is because you get summers off. And during those summer times -- sorry. I'm just -- I get --

But during those summer times, I use that time to go

back home. And me, my dad and my grandpa do a lot of net hanging, and so we get all the commercial nets ready and stuff like that. And that is just an impact on us, especially with this fishery. So we do all that. It's like a family business. There is me, my dad and my It's a three-generation business. And I want to grandpa. see that going on, and with this proposed Pebble Mine that it would not continue to go on.

And on top of that, I am a commercial fisherman here. I have been commercial fishing for about ten years now, and I grew to love it. It's my goal and my dream to get my own permit and to fish and to continue that commercial fishing lifestyle. But besides that, I just want to say I want to see more research and more studies on the impact that this mine could have around the region and around the Cook Inlet region.

I want to see -- I want to see more research on how the road connecting from wherever you guys propose that it may happen on, like, dust pollution just because, like, we live off the land and we live off, like, with anything that's in the water system. And I am here because the land cannot speak for itself, and I want to see, like, the impact that the dust pollution, that sound pollution, that anything that -- that anything with the mine that has or that is proposed will have a direct or indirect, like,

effect on us.

So I don't have anything else to say. Thank you.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Peter Andrews.

MR. PETER ANDREW: It's Peter Andrew.

There is only one of me. I'm a commercial fisherman, subsistence user, also board of directors of BBNC.

I understand this is scoping, so I'd really like to have the Corps of Engineers really take a good, hard look at the mine site itself, look at -- look at the hydrology. I think the hydrology is very critical in this -- in this particular area. You have all heard all of the ifs and whys and why we shouldn't, but it's -- this is going to be based on science.

I ask you to take a good look at the watershed assessment that was done. Take a look at the 1.3 million comments throughout the United States and state of Alaska. Take a look at the road corridor. Even on the north side, it's going to cross over some different drainages that are going to be very important, the critical impacts to those streams that produce some of the greatest sportfishing in the world. Need very good science to take a look at that, the impacts of a road and the dust that's going to go on those roads, the crossing of the lake with the proposed ice barges and stuff.

In the United States there is only one species of

freshwater seals left. I think it's very critical that the Corps takes a good, hard look at science regarding the health and welfare of the seals that are left on that Lake Iliamna. There is no other one that has freshwater seals ever again. I know that the other ones are extinct.

The road corridor from the Kokhanok side to the Amakdedori Bay landing, the road corridor is going to run parallel, parallel with the McNeil River sanctuary. The impacts of constructing a road, the impacts of taking and moving heavy equipment across that road 24/7 on the bears. I mean, there is a sanctuary there for a reason. The scientific facts about bear migration, moose migration, all of that.

And most importantly, I mean, John said it. It's waterfowl. I mean, we have waterfowl that come -- migrating birds that come all the way from South America. We need to make sure that some real, solid science goes into the waterfowl migration.

So obviously the -- the social, economic impacts of the region, commercial fishing. In the ten years that we have been here arguing about this mine, the commercial fishery alone has probably generated probably \$1.6 billion into the economy. How is that going to work if you take an equation out? And long-term effects of this mine, the -- if it is permitted, it is going to be a Superfund

1 site.

And as far as I know, what little science that I've seen indicates that the -- the ore bodies that are -- doesn't have a -- it has no -- the shelf life on it is for forever. So take a good, hard look at that.

And please take a good, hard look at the watershed assessment. I mean, nowhere else in the world has a bunch of people ever commented on something like this. This is it. This is the last stand for salmon.

Thank you.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Thank you. With that, I don't have any other attendees that would like to speak, at least in front of the audience, the large audience. The court reporter is still available if you would like to provide your comments directly to her. She's here. Otherwise, we will continue the open house through the scheduled time. And again, thank you for your participation.

(Off the record.)

MR. SHANE MCCOY: We have one more person that would like to provide their comment to the large group.

MS. ANNETTE CARUSO: Annette Caruso,
Naknek resident. I'm from Levelock and Igiugig. And so
just listening to Dick Russell talk about, you know, the

danger of the -- Lake Iliamna, you know, I moved to
Igiugig when I was eight years old and I graduated there,
so living on that lake and being aware of -- you know,
that water, you know, once it gets rough or freezes and
the ice builds up, like Dick says, I can't imagine them
wanting to have docks or trying to ferry whatever across
the way over to Amakdedori. I don't want to see that and
I don't want them to take the chance of having, you know,
some type of spill down there.

You know, all of the fish and all the fauna, the birds, the berries, the people that live there, the economic -- the Pebble study fast track, what's the rush? We are from this last lush salmon fishery. We want it to last; not just for my lifetime, for the next hundreds of generations of lifetimes to come. Like Joshua Gumlickpuk said, I chose to get my degree in elementary education so that I could commercial fish in the summers. I wouldn't have to take leave to fish.

And I couldn't wait for my dad to take me out on his boat. My family hasn't sold out. We made it through the low salmon runs, through the low prices. And we will continue to do so. You know, I grew up a subsistence user, sports fish user. I love smoking my king strips, canning salmon. I especially love my noodle-vie, the spawned out salmon from Igiugig. Goes really well with

the Eskimo ice cream, the berries from that tundra. And I need to thank my grandparents for passing on those values to me and my family.

We need to keep the Pebble Mine out. Thank you.

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Would anyone else like an option to speak in front of the entire audience? Okay. Well, we will be available for a little bit longer if you guys have any questions that we can answer.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Do you guys have any questions to ask us?

MR. SHANE MCCOY: Not right now. That's not --

(Off the record.)

MS. JOSEY WOOD: Josey Wood. So when I was looking at the map that had the box on it that showed the area that we lived in, it showed two national parks. And I have been to Brooks Camp a couple of times, and it's an amazing experience. And if something wrong happens, I don't want that to affect the bears or the fish because it was amazing. We got close up and personal with the bears. I have been living here for three years, but I never want to leave.

Me and my family, we fish. We don't fish for a living, but we do subsistence fishing with a net, and it's so much fun. I love to eat salmon. And I just don't want

this to affect my home and I know -- I wasn't born here,

but I just don't want this to affect where I live. I

don't want this to affect my home.

(Off the record.)

MR. PETER ANDREW: You really need to take a good, hard look at the owner of the road corridor and the subsurface corridor of the road on the north side of the lake and the south side of the lake because I think both sides are owned by the regional corporation, a good chunk of them. Okay.

(Off the record.)

MR. JOHN WISE: My name's John Wise. I'm a commercial fisherman in Naknek. I have three boats. I have a crew of nine people. And they are -- it's the major source of their income is the Bristol Bay salmon fishery.

I have been fishing since I was a teenager all over the state of Alaska and elsewhere with all types of gear for all types of fish. And there is no fishery that I have ever seen that can match this one in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery for a number of reasons. It's the last -- it's the greatest of our remaining salmon fisheries, without a question. There is -- it's -- there are no hatcheries. It's a completely wild fishery. It's an artisanal fishery, pursued by small businesses, and there

is nothing like it anywhere.

And I think you can make the argument that it's the greatest fishery left in the world. I think it's in that discussion for all those reasons. It's also the crown jewel of Alaska, of the Alaska fisheries, which are held up worldwide as a model of conservation.

And I guess my particular concerns with the EIS, I hope the Corps will take a hard look at the king salmon runs on the Nushagak. The king salmon are in decline all over the West Coast and around the state, and I just -- I feel it's important that -- you know, the Nushagak River is one of the few bright spots remaining for king salmon around the -- around the Pacific Ocean. I fished also on the Kuskokwim River in those salmon fisheries, and they are shut down now due to king salmon declines. There is no fishery. The subsistence fishery is in jeopardy. So king salmon are a huge issue.

And then I also wonder about the interconnectedness of all of this and its impact on not just upstream from Naknek, but downstream on the Bristol Bay red crab fishery, on the herring fishery in Togiak, on the cod and pollock. There is so much interconnectedness there that I'm not sure how it could all be taken into account in the environmental impact statement.

But I guess I would just say that this -- this area

that's -- that's threatened by this mine is a national treasure. And you can put it up against Yosemite and Yellowstone and Grand Canyon any day of the week. And I think it's a world treasure. I think it -- I think it's absolutely vital that we preserve it.

That's what I have to say.

MS. BECKY SAVO: So there is many aspects of this mine I'd like the Army Corps of Engineers to look at. Number one, it's an incredibly diverse ecosystem. It's the spawning ground for the largest salmon run on the planet. We are the sockeye capital of the world, Bristol Bay Borough is. And we want to stay that way.

I'm testifying on my own behalf as a resident. But the entire tax base of the Bristol Bay Borough is based on fish tax. So it's important to the economy here.

But there is many aspects of the project that I think the Army Corps of Engineers needs to look closely at.

One, it's been identified as a water deficit project. And what that means, according to the Pebble Partnership, is that there is not enough water on site for the mining smelting activities that are planned. So they would be bringing water on site from other sources, which, in my mind, will end up being Lake Iliamna because that is the largest water source close by, unless they drill a lot of wells. So no matter what you do, there is a very shallow

water table up there that's pretty fragile.

I'd also like you to look at the likelihood of geophysical events there: earthquakes, volcanoes, shifting of ground, climate change. All of those things affect our region. We are in the ring of fire. It's not a good environment to build an earthen dam because of the earthquake threat. Erosion. We have extreme weather, extreme temperature change. So it's a very harsh environment for development, and it's a harsh environment to control in terms of erosion and on-site water retainage and all of those things.

The most important thing, really to me is that you look at the Native people as a part of the ecosystem and all the local residents and the dependence on salmon as a cultural aspect of their world, as well as food source. They will not be healthy without salmon. They will not socially be well without salmon.

If you really look at this region, everything in this region revolves around salmon. And I do not believe that you can have mining and this volume of salmon fishery exist cohesively together.

And when I asked the expert from Pebble Partnership that was a scientist from the University of Washington -- which is my alma mater, and I respect the University of Washington -- but when I asked him if he thought they

could divert those creeks and still maintain those salmon runs, he said, I hope so. And that's not good enough for me. I don't want to hope so. I want a definite scientific method of how that's going to work.

The other thing I want you to look at is heavy metals in wildlife and salmon because any acid leaching is going to put those heavy metals into the water table. And that is the worst possible thing for salmon because it affects their sensory map to get back home to the spawning streams. So I think that's a very important aspect, as well.

There is also the economy, obviously. We are pretty much a one-source economy out here, and it all revolves around salmon.

I personally have -- my entire family for generations is tied to this fishery. My great uncle was a scientist for the University of Washington and did some of the very first research on salmon in Lake Iliamna and this whole drainage. My dad came here with the Alaska Packers Association because of the connection with my uncle, who got him interested in the fishery. And he was in quality control, and then he started working for the canneries. And then I came up because my dad came up. And then I married someone from here who fished. His whole family fishes. All my kids fish and now my grandkids fish. So

it has literally supported our family for four generations now. And I would like to make it be five and six. So that's a concern.

Let's see. Do you really specifically want to know what you should research, right? What aspects of the project --

MR. SHANE MCCOY: What your specific concerns are.

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MS. BECKY SAVO: Well, one of my specific concerns is that if you have investors that are from foreign countries, can we really hold them to reclamation? I personally have a degree in landscape architecture, which a lot of reclamation work hires landscape architects to do that work, and I have not seen any of that work performed in the state of Alaska. There is very little The BLM did a little bit around the oil reclamation. industry, but generally the mines here don't do the level of reclamation work that they do in the Lower 48. So I kind of feel like it might become an out-of-sight, out-of-mind situation if the mine -- you know, the mine were abandoned or didn't pan out financially. I'm not sure that I trust foreign entities to be bonded significantly to protect the environment.

And I guess lastly, I would just like to say I think that the value in the natural beauty and the raw

undeveloped land also has a huge economic value to the state of Alaska. I mean, people come here because of the vast wilderness because it's untouched. It's pristine. You know, the bird watchers, even the hunters, they come because this is the place that hasn't been tampered with yet. And I think that we can associate an economic value with that, right along with the fishery and right along with mining. And I would like to see that considered because oftentimes people don't take into account the value of -- the value of an unsoiled region. And that is what drives our tourism here. And tourism is a very viable industry in Alaska, right along with fishing and mining.

I'm not opposed to mining. I'm just opposed to mining here. And I don't really feel like they looked at alternatives to smelt and other areas and to downsize the footprint of the mine.

And really the most concerning thing to me is I'd like to call myself an educated resident of Bristol Bay. Where are the plans? When are they going to show us the plans for that mine? You know, I work in permitting and developing, and I want to see it on paper. I want to know the size, the depth, the materials they are bringing in, the people they are going to employ. I want to know every single detail. We know nothing as the residents of

Bristol Bay about that mine. And that was a calculated, planned effort on behalf of Pebble Partnership to not share the real guts of the project with the residents of Bristol Bay. And quite frankly, that is an insult to me as a resident.

And I also would like to say I'd like to see the scoping process extended. I didn't feel like it was easily identified in the public and advertised enough.

And I also feel like coordination always needs to be made with other meetings in the community to make sure that you can get full participation.

I'm trying to think. There is a few other things that I really wanted you to address. How the power grid of the project will affect the local residents. You know, how are they going to power that mine? Is it going to be diesel? You know, what's that going to do to the environment?

My biggest concern is the water deficit project because that means they are transferring large volumes of water to that project, and that's going to affect the fishery, as well as diverting streams and introducing heavy metals into the environment.

Of course, acid runoff. I'd like you to look at that. I'd like you to look at the stability of an earthen dam the size that they are planning, if I even really have

the real information on the size of the earthen dam because, again, they have not shared the plans with us. So I would like to really see a full plan set. And I've looked on the website, and I would say it's a conceptual plan, not an engineered plan. So I would think that should be made public before the permitting process. The public should know what they are building. And we don't.

Then, of course, all the wonderful wildlife species that are there: the flowers, the tundra, the people, the clean air, the beautiful sky. I don't want to see any of that go away. I'm not opposed to development. I'm just opposed to this scale of development.

And I feel sometimes that there has been some kind of threatening tactics around the mine. I've seen entire families divided over the mine. I've seen, you know, people in the community divided about you are either for it or against it. It's had a huge sociological impact on Bristol Bay, the threat of this mine has. And it has divided families. It has divided community members because if you are -- you know, if you are forced to take sides, then you don't agree.

And you know, I -- you know, I was insulted when someone came to one of the public meetings and said, well, you know, the welfare benefits are going away and we are going to have to have this mine because we are going to

need some jobs. Excuse me? I've worked since I was 13 years old. I don't need a mine. I'll just get a job. But I don't need a job in a mine, necessarily. And you know, historically, these kind of projects don't really provide that many jobs for locals, and they usually don't provide the upper level, higher educated jobs. However, we have those people in our workforce, but generally they bring everybody in from outside. You know, they will let you make the beds, drive a truck maybe but, you know, you are not going to be the lead engineer. And we have those skilled Bristol Bay residents that could fill those jobs.

So I think that's about all I have to say, really.

(Proceedings adjourned at 7:30 p.m.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, MARY A. VAVRIK, RMR, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein set forth; that the proceedings were reported stenographically by me and later transcribed under my direction by computer transcription; that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings taken at that time; and that I am not a party to nor have I any interest in the outcome of the action herein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my hand and affixed my seal this _____ day of April 2018.

MARY A. VAVRIK,

Registered Merit Reporter Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission Expires: November 5, 2020

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